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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/688,045	10/12/2000	Daisuke Sato	107259	5525

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EXAMINER

MOORE, IAN N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2661

13

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/688,045

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Ian N Moore

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 11-13, 16-18 and 20-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 11, 16 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 12-13, 17-18, 21-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to supplementary amendment filed on July 2, 2004 (paper # 12).
2. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6-8, 12-13, 17-18, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 recites, "...**an arbitration circuit ...an address generation circuit** for generating a write address to **the packet storage memory** being separated into a first control information area and a second control information area, control information of the second control information area being written by the transfer execution circuit; and

wherein the address generation circuit **switching** between generating addresses for the first control information area and addresses for the second control information area, **based on an arbitration result from the arbitration circuit**, in page 4.

The function of the address generation circuit, which relates to memory storage area and an arbitration circuit, is unclear. In particular, it is unclear how the address generation circuit switching/switches generating address between first and second control area of the memory based on **an arbitration result from the arbitration circuit**. What is an arbitration result?

What/how switching between first and second control memory area is based on arbitration result? As recited in the claim above, the arbitration circuit arbitrates the packet transfer by utilizing the first and second command among plurality of nodes. Does arbitration circuit also arbitrates the address generation process? Examiner is requesting the applicant to further clarify the address generation circuit functionalities, with related to generating address, switching the generating address base on an arbitration result, and if possible, to indicate the page/line number in the specification.

Claim 7 recites, "...wherein the data area of the packet storage means is separated into a first data area for storing first data for a first layer and a second data area for storing second data for a second layer that is **the object of continuous packet transfer** by the transfer execution circuit..." in page 5.

It is unclear what "the object" is? Does the object refers control information or data information? Does the object refers to a first or second layer? Does the object refers to first data area or second data area? Does the object refers the output of transfer execution circuit, which is the divided packets, if so, how does the second layer or second data or second data area related to such object? Examiner is requesting the applicant to further clarify what the object is, and if possible, to indicate the page/line number in the specification.

Claims **8,12-13,17-18, and 21-22** are also rejected since they are depended upon above rejected claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 2-5, 11,16, and 20 are allowed.
5. Claims 6-8, 12-13, 17-18 and 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ian N Moore whose telephone number is 703-605-1531. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ken Vanderpuye can be reached on 703-308-7828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

INM
8/20/04



KENNETH VANDERPUYE
PRIMARY EXAMINER